

REMARKS

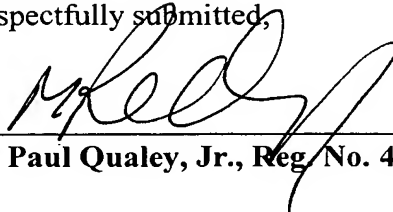
The Office Action indicates that the application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention: FIG. 1, Species 1; FIG. 2, Species 2; and FIG. 3, Species 3. Specifically, the Office Action indicates that the Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. §121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Additionally, the Office Action indicates that no claim is generic.

With respect to the election/restriction requirement, Applicant respectfully elects the purported Species 1 shown in FIG. 1. However, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the contention that there currently is no generic claim. Specifically, Applicant respectfully asserts that at least claim 1 is generic as to all of the alleged species. Therefore, Applicant makes the above-mentioned election with traverse.

With respect to the required election of "Species 1," Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 1 – 5, 7 – 9, 11, 14, 18 and 19 read on the elected "Species."

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to examine all of the claims together. Applicant expressly reserves the right to present the non-elected claims, or variants thereof, in continuing applications to be filed subsequent to the present application. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this response, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington D.C. 20231, on 2/24/03.

Stephanie Biley
Signature